

Continue



































same gross charm and dilapidated view of high school life you'd find in, once again, a 50s B-movie, or something Christine and Cujo. Go Eat Worms!via fuse.tv 10. BAD HARE DAY (41) Mostly of interest to those who are fascinated by magic, and those who've ever had childhood fantasies of turning your sibling into a small furry animal. Tim, an aspiring magician steals his favourite magician's box of tricks ("Amaz-O's box of tricks") and subsequently turns his sister into a rabbit. Tim is admittedly kinda bland, but Amaz-O is wonderfully wicked, and who hasn't worried that the people you idolise might turn out to be pretty bad people? Plus, the cover is awesome. Bad Hare Dayvia goodreads.com 9. WELCOME TO CAMP NIGHTMARE (31) was a Boy Scout, and grew up in a small town enveloped by woods. The idea that something might be skulking in the woods waiting to devour or mutilate me was terrifying. (The Evil Dead probably best encapsulated that fear by also showing how ridiculous that fear is.) Welcome to Camp Nightmare begins by introducing us to a cast of colourful characters, who are then abandoned on the side of the road by their bus driver. It's a surreal, wholly unexpected introduction, and establishes a feeling of dismay and paranoia immediately. There are monsters, of course, but the entire camp is suffused with a sense of dream logic dread from chapter one, and the Twilight Zone-inspired ending is a doozy. It also has a really unnerving scene involving children using guns, which will probably not sit well with people in 2015, so be warned. Welcome to Camp Nightmarevia goodreads.com 8. STAY OUT OF THE BASEMENT (2) One of the recurring fears of Stine's books is the conception that your parent has turned against you. Few ideas are scarier to a child, and none of the Goosebumps books implemented and executed this nightmarish notion better than Stay Out of the Basement, the second book in the series. There are shades of Invasion of the Body Snatchers here, but the book doesn't acquire a horrific atmosphere as much as it opens with one: A pair of children (Stine has a thing for terrorizing siblings) try to play Frisbee with their father, but he gruffly declines to pay attention to them. Something's wrong with dad... There's genuine suspense here, and the title doesn't give anything away (unlike, say, How I Learned to Fly). By the end, the kids stab their "father" (who bleeds) and then hack apart the plant-monster-hybrid who has been pretending to be their "father." It ends on a wickedly clever homage to The Fly (the Vincent Price one), almost like a reward for discerning parents. Stay Out of the Basementvia goodreads.com 7. MONSTER BLOOD II (18) A giant hamster! What's not to love about a giant hamster? Actually, the hamster is only the size of a rabbit for most of the book, but the promise of a giant hamster, especially if it looks anything like it does on the gloriously gaudy cover, is what makes this book so compulsively readable. This is one of the ones people still remember well into their 20s because, again, a giant hamster monster, which is named Cuddles (Cuddles!), but also because the book deals prominently with bullying, and the feeling that teachers either can't help you, or won't help you. Oh, also, it climaxes with Evan drinking Monster Blood so that he can become 10 feet tall and wrestle the giant hamster. Don't you wish you'd thought of that? Monster Blood Ivia goodreads.com 6. NIGHT OF THE LIVING DUMMY (7) Probably the most iconic of Stine's myriad creations, Slappy the doll is the stuff from whence nightmares are made. Night of the Living Dummyvia goodreads.com 5. SAY CHEESE AND DIE! (4) Yes, the title is ridiculous (though imately less ridiculous than its misbegotten sequel), but it obscures the severe derangement of the story. There's a creepy old house, a creepy old man named Spidey, and a piece of archaic technology (film cameras are just so much scarier than digital ones) that causes bad things to happen. Like, really bad things. Like death. Add in some clever pop-culture references, some more violence, and another 500 pages and this could be a Stephen King book. Say Cheese and Die!via goodreads.com 4. NIGHT OF THE LIVING DUMMY II (31) Replacing the family of the original book with a coterie of hippies, the sequel to Night of the Living Dummy is basically a retreat of the original book, but with more flair. It may not be as scary, but it does an admirable job of sending-up the tropes of the killer doll genre. Amy, an aspiring ventriloquist, has an old dummy named Dennis who has become almost unusable with age. So Lucy's dad buys her a new dummy, Slappy, who for some reason has a moldy sandwich stuffed inside his head. Slappy soon causes all kinds of mischief. I prefer this one to the original if only because it ends with a weird dummy jealously spat in which Dennis smashes Slappy's head. Night of the Living Dummy Ivia goodreads.com 3. THE GIRL WHO CRIED MONSTER (8) Stine finds inspiration for one of his most unnerving books in a local library, which should resonate with any kid who spent his/her childhood perusing book shelves, or had to deal with a creepy curmudgeon of a librarian. (I was a library kid, but luckily I had a phenomenal librarian named Mr. Carol. He even helped me send a hand-drawn manuscript for a Spider-Man comic to Marvel; they sent me a very nice rejection letter.) Lucy loves monster books, despite the attempts of her librarian to make her read "the classics." Of course, the librarian turns out to be a monster who munches on bugs and turtles after hours. Lucy tries to prove to her friends and family that the librarian is a monster, but she is thwarted by poor luck and the disbelief of adults every step of the way. The ending is one of the balls-out craziest of the series. The Girl Who Cried Monstervia goosebumps.wikia.com 2. ONE DAY AT HORRORLAND (16) One of the most oft-used clichés of movie blurbs is likening a movie to a roller coaster. That cliché wouldn't be totally inapt here, as the story literally concerns an amusement park, but also because One Day at HorrorLand is Stine's most relentlessly-paced Goosebumps book. Instead of a single child or pair of siblings, an entire family is terrorized here, as Stine channels Tobe Hooper's Funhouse in his depiction of theme park terror. The book wastes no time, throwing the family into peril almost immediately with constant threats of death. It's persistently fun, and the ending is one of the funniest, and most absurd (in the Camus sense), of the series. One Day at Horrorlandvia goodreads.com 1. THE HAUNTED MASK (11) The best Goosebumps book, which harkens back to Halloween III: Season of the Witch as much as it does any 19th century gothic tale, is a terrifying account of a young girl (an adolescent Scream Queen, if you will) named Carly Beth who is tricked into eating a worm sandwich and, like so many ill-fated Stine characters, vows revenge. In an attempt to put together the scariest Halloween costume, she acquires a repulsive mask, one that turns out to be a living succubus entity, which slowly transforms Cary Beth into a Hyde-like monster. This is a classic kind of scary story in which the heroine becomes the villain, and, as the cover suggests, this one is entirely devoid of silliness. Not to harp too much on the Stephen King similarities in the series, but the mysterious new costume shop, the enigmatic shop owner, the revenge theme, the idea of trying to scare someone and having it backfire on you – this is quintessential horror fiction stuff. The Haunted Maskvia goodreads.com AmazonThe entire original 62-book Goosebumps series marked an important part of our childhoods: the excited feeling of being just a little bit terrified. Whether the books still send a shiver down your spine, creep you out even more as an adult, or just straight-up provide you with nostalgia for your youth, take a peek at our picks for scariest Goosebumps books. From Welcome to Dead House, the first of the series, to The Ghost Next Door, the saddest of the series, to The Haunted Mask, one of the classics of the series, the novels ahead will be sure to give you a scare — and twist endings like no other. Reader beware. . . AmazonThe first book in the original series. Welcome to Dead House definitely sets the scene for all 61 books to follow. Siblings Amanda and Josh are strangers in a new neighborhood, so what's left to do but go exploring, especially after their dog runs away? Soon, however, they wind up figuring out the dark secret of Dark Falls — and it's something you'll only want to read with the light on.Amazon!t's one thing to make up a few monster stories now and then, like protagonist Lucy, but once you see your librarian eating flies? That's a whole other story (specifically, a story called The Girl Who Cried Monster). It's one that gets a whole lot weirder as it continues. . . AmazonOne of the most horrifying — and definitely the saddest — tales of the series, The Ghost Next Door is the story of Hannah, who spends the Summer exploring her neighborhood and doing what she can to have fun (fitting in with the attire of the time, our heroine wears a whole lot of Day Glo green). One day during her adventures, she meets her new neighbor, Danny, whose constant disappearances make her start to suspect that he's a ghost. The truth is worse than she ever thought possible.AmazonThe Haunted Mask is the story of Carly Beth, who is so mercilessly teased by classmates Steve and Chuck that she's determined to get revenge on them by buying the most grotesque Halloween disguise she can find and scaring the crap out of them on Halloween night. But what happens when the mask isn't just a mask and turns out to be something . . . more? This is a classic entry in the Goosebumps hall of fame.AmazonWe don't know about you, but we're pretty sure we'd never take piano lessons from a man named Dr. Shreek. However, in Piano Lessons Can Be Murder, main character Jerry isn't fazed by his piano teacher's moniker (though he should be), and quickly takes up piano lessons with him. Needless to say, it's a near-fatal mistake.Amazon!A scarecrow must detach from his post and start scampering around, what better time than midnight, amirite? All "corny" jokes aside, The Scarecrow Walks at Midnight is a creeper of a tale about multitudes of moving scarecrows that haunt Jodie and Mark — and not just at nighttime. The only way to stop them is, of course, a dangerous one.AmazonSteve, bully-turned-protagonist from The Haunted Mask, returns to have his own adventure with a spooky Halloween disguise in The Haunted Mask II. Only this time, the mask he chooses is a grotesque old man crawling with spiders. But as with Carly Beth, he's not attached to the mask — the mask is attached to him.AmazonEasily one of the scariest Goosebumps books on record, The Headless Ghost is a story within a story, a tale of a boy named Andrew who haunts his former home, looking for his head. According to the story, after the boy had seen a ghost himself, the ghost tore off Andrew's head and hid it somewhere in the house, and Andrew now wanders around looking for it. Now, two young friends, Duane and Stephanie, are obsessed with the story and the house. But what happens when they run into the ghost himself?AmazonR.L. Stine's campfire ghost stories are among his best, and Ghost Camp is the perfect example. Imagine going to sleepaway camp for the first time, your stomach already in knots with nerves and excitement, when you suddenly find yourself running for your life — from the camp. That's exactly what happens to main character Harry!AmazonAt first, the cool trick-or-treating town Drew and Walker find is every candy-eating kid's dream: it has the biggest chocolate bars and a never-ending supply of all the best Halloween haul. However, things take a turn for the creepy in Attack of the Jack-o'-Lanterns when the pumpkin-headed townsfolk don't seem to be wearing costumes. . . AmazonThe ending is by far the best part of this book, and even though it came out close to 25 years ago, we still don't want to spoil it for you. Instead, we'll leave you with this: of all the Goosebumps twists, Calling All Creeps has the scariest — and perhaps the most satisfying.AmazonThe Curse of Camp Cold Lake is so bone-chilling it still sends shivers down our spines. Our protagonist, Sarah, hates her sleep-away camp to begin with — but she really hates it when she believes the ghost of a dead girl who drowned at the lake is trying to kill her. It's like a Friday the 13th for kids, only with a totally different twist ending.AmazonYou only have to see The Sixth Sense to know what goes down when schools are haunted. But in the world of Goosebumps, things can get a little bit more dark (and we mean that literally). The Haunted School sees Tommy and his friend Ben attempt to save the class of 1947, who are somehow locked inside the school via a black-and-white photo, meaning they are trapped inside a colorless world for their entire ghostly existence. Despite the boys' heroic efforts, however, by the end of the book, it looks like Ben and Tommy are doomed to the same fate themselves. . .